

American Literature Choice Book Assignment (Spring Semester)

Select and get approval of your book **by Friday, April 18th**

Bring your book on Monday, April 21st

- Read book by Monday, May 12th.
- Turn in annotated text and be ready to give your presentation on Monday, May 12th.
- All books are available in the media center or you can purchase your own copy at a used bookstore or online. Some are available as free etext online.

Choose a valuable work of fiction or nonfiction to read with a purpose.

Such a purpose requires your chosen literary text to connect with American ideals while revealing the values of American society. Your selection should reveal an understanding of the history and cultural progress of our country through literature conveying the perceptions and experiences of American authors. Thus, this criterion should guide you in your choice, analysis, and discussion of the literary work. All of the books recommended for your reading meet the requirements. You will need to find a copy of the book for reading and annotations. Suggestions:

1. *The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls
2. *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien
3. *Slaughterhouse-Five* by Kurt Vonnegut
4. *Fight Club* by Chuck Palahniuk
5. *A Farewell to Arms* by Ernest Hemingway
6. *The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd
7. *Fences* by August Wilson or *Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller
8. *Nickel and Dimed* by Barbara Ehrenreich
9. *The Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan
10. *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston

If you choose another book other than the recommended texts, you must make sure your book is:

An honors level 11th grade text, written by an American author, and appeals to your experience, interests, passions, and view of America.

From Ernest Hemingway to Barbara Kingsolver, John Irving to Ray Bradbury to Amy Tan to Ralph Ellison to Alice Walker to John Grisham, American authors explore the nature of American identity through incredible novels and biographies. Here are a few resources and guidelines to help you find the perfect book for you:

- A book that you have not previously read
- Minimum of 100 pages
- Appropriate grade level
- No movie version of your book choice
- You may want to review the subject matter closely before selecting your text. Thus, parents are encouraged to discuss book choices with their children.
- If you are unhappy with your choice, feel free to make another selection for preapproval.
- Ask your teachers, ask a librarian, or use these sites to help you find a book:
- <http://www.readliterature.com/american.htm>
- <http://www.bcps.org/offices/lis/models/amwriters/writers.htm>
- http://www.goodreads.com/list/show/2413.100_Best_American_Authors

Student Name _____

Book title _____

Teacher approval _____

Parent approval _____